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18 October 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, DDO

FROM : Associate Coordinator for Academic Relations  
and External Analytical Support

SUBJECT : State Department Open Forum

1. Sue Kling, Co-chairperson of the State Department Open Forum, has asked me about scheduling a senior Agency official to speak before her group. Kling tells me that the Open Forum is an officially sanctioned group of younger foreign service officers who meet every Wednesday to hear a guest speaker and to talk about a relevant foreign policy issue. Their meetings are off-the-record and controlled so that only foreign service officers can be included. Kling, who is a foreign service officer, assured me that no media or outside persons are included.

2. She asked if an Agency speaker could talk about an intelligence topic. It seems to me that, rather than asking the director of NFAC or one of his deputies, it would be more appropriate for a senior DDO official to accept the invitation. I suspect that this group of young foreign service officers shares at least some of the myths held by the general public about CIA, its operations overseas, and its alleged misdeeds. This opportunity might be an ideal one for helping, even in a small way, to set the record straight.

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